



*Natural building blocks for quality of life*

September 16, 2013

The Honorable Bill Shuster  
Chairman  
House Committee on Transportation  
and Infrastructure  
United States House of Representatives  
2165 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nick J. Rahall II  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Transportation  
and Infrastructure  
United States House of Representatives  
2163 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Bob Gibbs  
Chairman  
House Subcommittee on Water Resources  
and Environment  
United States House of Representatives  
B370-A Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tim Bishop  
Ranking Member  
House Subcommittee on Water Resources  
and Environment  
United States House of Representatives  
B-375 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Shuster, Ranking Member Rahall, Chairman Gibbs, and Ranking Member Bishop:

We write today to commend you on the introduction of the *Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2013*, a bill drafted in the traditional, collaborative fashion between the two parties that is appropriate for legislation dealing with our nation's infrastructure. The National Stone, Sand & Gravel Association (NSSGA) strongly supports this bipartisan bill and urges all members of the House to do the same.

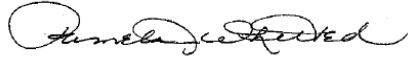
Our members are the crushed stone, sand, and gravel operations in almost every congressional district in the country and the principle suppliers of materials that are essential to build and rehabilitate America's aging infrastructure. Aggregates are the basic ingredients used in the construction and maintenance of dams, water and sewage treatment plants, tunnels, and countless other public works projects.

With the passage of this bill, NSSGA hopes Congress will return to a biannual process for approving water resources development legislation, which authorizes important navigation, flood control, recreation, and environmental protection projects. Congress also should fully fund the projects through the Energy & Water Appropriations bill. Too often projects are halted or slowed due to inadequate funding resulting in longer completion timelines and higher costs. Fully funding important water infrastructure projects will return dividends to the American people through an increasingly efficient water transportation network, better environmental protection, and increased recreational opportunities.

Furthermore, NSSGA sees the bipartisan collaboration on display in the development and drafting of the WRRDA bill as a solid stepping stone for the work ahead in drafting and passing a robust, long-term, and well-funded surface transportation reauthorization bill before the expiration of MAP-21 in September 2014.

Again, on behalf of the membership of NSSGA, we commend you for introducing the bipartisan *Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2013* in the United States House of Representatives. NSSGA will continue urging every member of Congress to support WRRDA and we look forward to its enactment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pamela J. Whitted", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Pamela J. Whitted  
Senior Vice President, Legislative & Regulatory Affairs  
National Stone, Sand & Gravel Association